

From: R. M. Panoff, Ph.D.
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 3:47pm
Subject: The settlement is as fraudulent as you are!

Sirs/Madams:

This settlement will do nothing to help the consuming public or the education system; rather, it will enable Microsoft to continue to perpetuate a fraud: lousy software that requires undue service and support, and will be harmful to public and private education.

It is not just their monopolistic tactics: their insidious attempts to force all education developers to "do it their way" are famous. They repeatedly "break" features in their browsers, or fail to support them, so that developers will be forced to buy server services from them. They are actively trying to kill Java as a platform-independent language, which will cripple the education and scientific communities as we work to build QUALITY COURSEWARE that will run on any platform and any browser. To wit: all of the award-winning course ware that we have developed AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE for the Department of Defense Schools will be rendered useless if this settlement is approved. Microsoft will be able to kill off anyone's use of any browser but its own, will further suppress Java and its implementations, and will corrode the value of the good work already done.

I would welcome the opportunity to prove my assertions and to demonstrate for you exactly what their monopolistic practices have already done and will likely continue to do in the future.

Stop lying that this is in the public interest. You have no idea what the public interest is if you believe this to be the case.

Robert M. Panoff